

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of

Bernd SPANIOL

Date: January 16, 2004

Serial No.: Unassigned

Group Art Unit: --

Filed: Herewith

Examiner: --

For: OXYGEN-ENRICHED NIOBIUM WIRE

Mail Stop Patent Application

Commissioner for Patents

P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

S I R:

In compliance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. § 1.56 and in accordance with the practice under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98, the Examiner's attention is directed to the documents listed on the enclosed Form PTO 1449. In accordance with the rule change, only copies of the foreign references are enclosed.

The present Information Disclosure Statement is being submitted simultaneously with the filing of the present application.

German reference "Werkstoffkunde der Hochvakuumtechnik" discusses niobium characteristics. Applicants do not have an English-language translation of this reference readily available.

The present invention defines a specific process for producing an oxygen-enriched niobium wire which is not believed to be disclosed by the enclosed references. One of the enclosed references is discussed in the specification of the present application and the Examiner's attention is respectfully directed to that discussion.

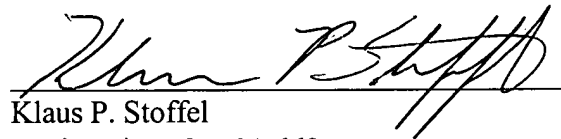
In accordance with 37 C.F.R §§1.97(g) and (h), the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement should not be construed as a representation that a search has been made or that information cited is, or is considered to be, material to patentability as defined in §1.56(b), or that any cited document listed or attached is (or constitutes) prior art. Unless otherwise indicated, the

date of publication indicated for an item is taken from the face of the item and Applicant(s) reserve(s) the right to prove that the date of publication is in fact different.

It is respectfully requested that the above information be considered by the Examiner and that the copy of the enclosed Form PTO-1449 be returned indicating that such information has been considered.

In the event the fee is inadvertently not enclosed or if any additional fee during the prosecution of this application is not paid, the Patent Office is authorized to charge the underpayment to Deposit Account No. 15-0700.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Klaus P. Stoffel', is written over a horizontal line.

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APPLICANT'S ART CITATION (Use several sheets if necessary)		Application		OFGS File No. P/4308-30			
		Applicant Bernd SPANIOL					
		Filing Date Herewith		Group Art Unit			
U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS							
Examiner Initial	Document Number	Date MM-YYYY	Name	Class	Sub-class	Filing Date If Appropriate	
	US-6,358,625 B1	3/2002	KUMAR et al.				
	US-						
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FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS							
	Document Number	Date MM-YYYY	Country	Class	Sub-class	Translation	
						Yes	No
OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)							
		"Werkstoffkunde der Hochvakuumtechnik," Band 1, VEB Deutscher Verlag der Wissenschaften, Dr. Werner Espe, Berlin, 1959.					
Examiner		Date Considered					
EXAMINER: Initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP § 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to the applicant.							